Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Kazakhastan Foreign Service officers are already receiving training at our Foreign Service Institute and Consultations between the two Governments on regional and global issues, both at the official and the political level, is already taking place.

Cases of Forged Passport and Visas

3886. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of passengers slip out of India with fake passports and visas particularly from Delhi as reported in the Hindustan Times of May 21, 1993;

(b) if so, the number of cases detected having forged passport and visas from various places during each of the last three years;

(c) what action Government have taken against such persons and also against those who make and supply forged passports and visas duly stamped on payment of hefty fee from innocent Indian Passengers; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to check such fake passport and visa rackets ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the concerned agencies and will be laid on the Table of the House

Use of Nuclear Arms at Short Notice by Pak

3887. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that CIA have made a statement that Pakistan can use nuclear arms at a short notice; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what action Government have taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The CIA Director James Woolsey, in his testimony before the Sub-Committee on International Security, International Organisations and Human Rights of the House Foreign Affairs Committee on 28 July, 1993 stated, *inter alia*, that both India and Pakistan have nuclear weapons development programmes and are capable of assembling and delivering a limited number of nuclear weapons within a relatively short time.

Government continue to monitor all developments having a bearing on India's security. Government have on several occasions conveyed to the US our concerns on Pakistan's acquisition of military capabilities in excess of its legitimate defence requirements.

प्रधान मंत्री की विदेश यात्राएं

3888. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1993 में प्रधान मंत्री द्वारा किन-किन देशों की यात्रा किए जाने की सम्भावना है और तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ख) क्या प्रधान मंत्री इन दौरों में अकेले जाएंगे अथवा उनके साथ कोई प्रतिनिधिमंडल भी जाएगा ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सलमान खुर्शीद) : (क) वर्ष 1993 के दौरान प्रधान मंत्री को जिन देशों की यात्रा करनी है, उनमें भूटान, चीन, कोरिया गणराज्य और साइप्रस हैं । इनमें से पहले तीन देशों की यात्रा द्विपक्षीय संदर्भ में होगी और यह उम्मीद है कि इन यात्राओं से सम्बन्धित देशों के साथ हमारे सम्बन्ध और अधिक मजबूत होंगे । साइप्रस की यात्रा, 21 से 25 अक्तूबर, 1993 को राष्ट्रमंडल के राज्याध्यक्षों/शासनाध्यक्षों की बैठक में भाग लेने के लिए की जाएगी ।

(ख) जैसी कि प्रथा है, प्रधान मंत्री के साथ एक शिष्टमण्डल जाएगा ।

Recognition of Mizo Tribe as a Lost Tribe by Israel

3889. SHRI G. G. SWELL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Israel has recognised a section of the Mizo population as the lost tribe of Israel;

(b) whether these Mizos have sought the right to emigrate to Israel; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) According to Israeli official policy, only bona fide jews recognised by Israel can claim the right to migrate to Israel.

(c) Government have checked press reports

alleging attempts by certain Israeli individuals to settle members of a tribe from Mizoram in Gaza. A group of about 40 persons claiming to practise the jewish faith from Mizoram and Manipur reached Israel with tourist visas in August 1993. These persons may be in search of employment. The Israeli Government have denied any official involvement in this matter.

More submarines by Pak

3890. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the Economic Times dated 3rd August, 1993 captioned "Pak eyeing more submarines" to augment its naval strength; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government of India thereon particularly the impact thereof on our counting which has maritime boundaries with Pakistan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) Government have seen media reports to the effect that Pakistan is exploring the possibility of acquiring submarines from various countries to augment its naval strength.

(b) Our concerns about any arms sales to Pakistan disproportionate to Pakistan's legitimate needs has been conveyed to all concerned. Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on India's security and take necessary measures to safeguard it.

PM to visit North Korea

3891. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has any plan to visit North Korea which has long standing friendly relations with our country; and

(b) whether Prime Minister's visit to China and USA, may not be rounded up by the Prime Minister's visit to North Korea ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Prime Minister has accepted, in principle, an invitation from the President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to visit the DPRK. Mutually convenient dates for the visit will be worked out through diplomatic channels.

Hardship faced by Indian citizens in U.K.

3892. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a lot of hardship is caused to Indian Citizens who visit U.K. due to increase in Visa fees;

(b) whether Government propose to review the fees in the interest of Visiting Indians; and

(c) if so, the details of the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) to (c) It is the sovereign right of every country to fix its own visa fee structure and to revise it from time to time in the absence of a bilateral visa fee agreement. It would therefore be inappropriate for the Government of India to take up this matter with the British authorities.

Attack on Janmashtami procession in Bangladesh

3893. SHRI PUSUMPON THAKIRUTTINAN :
SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Janmashtami procession brought out by the minority community this year in Dhaka (Bangladesh) was attacked;

(b) if so, whether the Indian High Commission in Dhaka has lodged a protest on this incident with the Government of Bangladesh, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what according to the information with the Government of India, are the details of the casualties suffered by the minority community on account of the attack on the procession ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALAMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian High Commission in Dhaka has not lodged a protest on this incident with the Government of Bangladesh as the protection and welfare of the minority community in Bangladesh is the responsibility of the Bangladesh Government.